

320 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S  
HISTORY

thing in effect was the same, for I being wholly a stranger to bussiness, it must be the Privy Council must do all things. I did not say this as mistrusting him in the matter (for I really left the thing to him and would make no choice), but because I was in real fear of it; for I am sensible, a person in my station can not make an indifferent one, for if one does not make a very good, I am sure one must make a very bad figure.<sup>1</sup>

On June 4, 1690, William set out for Ireland, leaving nine Privy Councillors to act as the Queen's advisers in all affairs of state. She describes her position and the character of her councillors with great clearness and good sense.

I found my self now at White Hall as in a new world, deprived of all that was dear to me in the person of my husband, left among those that were perfect strangers to me; my sister of a humour so reserved, I could have little comfort from her ; the great Council of a strange composition, the Cabinet Council not much better.

The Marquis of Caermarthen (the former Earl of Danby), the Lord President, had been particularly recommended by the King, and he was one to whom she must ever own great obligations, yet of a temper I can never like \ William told her Dorset was to be trusted, although vain, but she found him weak and obstinate, and a vehement partisan. Devonshire was too lazy to trouble about business, and

Pembroke was as mad as most of his family,  
though very  
good-natured, and honourable, if unstable.  
Nottingham,  
the Secretary of State, was suspected by most  
as disaffected  
to the government, and generally distrusted,  
though all  
business went through his office. The King  
believed him  
an honest man, but too violent a Tory. Lord  
Monrnouth

<sup>1</sup> Ibid. p. 22. Cf. Bumet, ii. 46-7, for William's  
anxiety for Mary during  
his absence.